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10 October 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The crisis between southerners in Premier Ky's cabinet and northerners in his government continues unresolved.

The resignations of the six ministers have still not been forced either by Premier Ky or by the ministers themselves. The ministers stated their case to Chief of State Thieu on 7 October and he counseled them to reconsider their decision in the greater interest of the country.

In another attempt to mollify the dissident ministers, Premier Ky accepted the resignation of their protagonist, Health Secretary Kha, in addition to suspending the newspaper that led directly to their resignation. It appears, however, that the ministers are too piqued at the increasingly heavy-handed methods of police director Loan to settle for those mild concessions. They might require some sort of censure of Loan before reconsidering their resignations.

Criticism of General Loan from southern quarters in the cabinet, in the civilian-military council, and in the constituent assembly is rising. The southerners have also implicated Minister of Information General Nguyen Bao Tri, reportedly as the officer in control of the newspaper that printed the offensive article.

Military Situation in South Vietnam: In Binh Dinh Province, US, Korean, and South Vietnamese forces involved in Operation IRVING continued to close the ring on the remaining elements of the 12th PAVN and 2nd Viet Cong regiments. The allied forces now have



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accounted for 1,228 enemy dead, 1,242 captured and 2,851 suspects detained. Ten US soldiers have been killed and 75 wounded, out of total allied losses of 38 killed and 167 wounded.

In Quang Tri Province, US Marines and South Vietnamese forces participating in operations PRAIRIE and LAM SON 318 both reported the discovery of new Communist graves containing the bodies of more than 100 enemy troops. (Map)

Air Encounters Over North Vietnam: Four air engagements occurred in North Vietnam over the weekend and at least two Communist planes were shot down. There were no US losses to enemy fighters.

On 9 October four A-1H aircraft, providing cover for a helicopter rescue mission near Phu Ly, were attacked by four Communist jets. In the ensuing air battle the propeller-driven US Navy planes destroyed one and damaged a second North Vietnamese interceptor with cannon fire. Later on the same day two Navy F-8s encountered a pair of MIG-21s about 20 miles southwest of Hanoi. One of the advanced Communist fighters was shot down with two air-to-air missiles.

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Guatemala: Cesar Montes, new chief of the Communist guerrilla-terrorist organization FAR, has publicly reaffirmed the FAR's commitment to revolutionary violence following the accidental death of its former leader.

Montes said that the FAR had evaded a major army operation now in progress, but that his organization would answer continued military provocations not only with defensive action but also with a stepped-up fight aimed at seizing power. He also warned of intensified FAR activities against extreme rightists who, he said, have begun counterterrorist activities against the FAR. He charged the rightists with plotting against the Mendez government.

Montes' public confirmation of the military offensive against the guerrillas should help dispel charges of the far right that the President has refused to "unleash" the army against the rebels. This should weaken whatever appeal these rightist conspirators may have. Nevertheless, increased FAR activity will stimulate their plotting.

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NOTE

South Korea: The ruling party is concerned that a new round of student demonstrations might continue through President Johnson's visit. The students are protesting the government's handling of the recent smuggling case, an issue which may command more popular support than demonstrations last year against the 1965 ROK-Japan normalization treaty. Security forces are considered capable of maintaining control unless the demonstrators succeed in arousing the public.

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